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epsomguardian.co.uk Thursday, April 5, 2018 EpsomGuardian

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People fined after they were caught dumping rubbish
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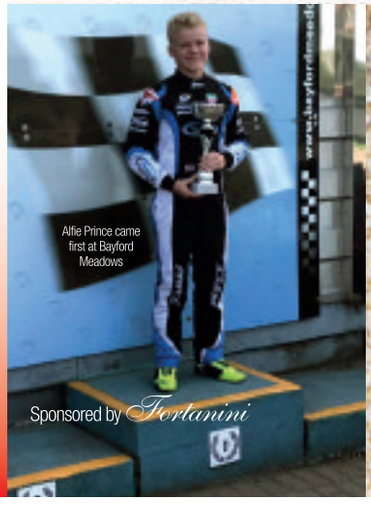

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Film fest set for action

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

Epsom's first international film festival is launching this year.

Satisfied Eye International Film Festival (SEIFF) already has hundreds of submissions from filmmakers representing 30 countries.

The three-day festival will take place in October in the Epsom Playhouse and will be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Multi award-winning writer and film director Chris Hastings, who lives in Epsom, is the festival's artistic director and wants local film buffs to join the panel.

He said: "We're looking for real film enthusiasts of all ages.

"Applicants need to have a broad love of film and a fair amount of free time.

"There will be hundreds of new films to watch, including feature-length and short fiction, animation, and documentaries."

The judging panel is made up by Oscar, BAFTA and Emmy award winners who have worked on films and TV series such as Interstellar, Star Wars, Thor, and Game of Thrones.

The ten locals invited to join will be responsible for deciding the SEIFF People's Choice Award.

All the films being judged will have been completed in 2017 or 2018 and will not yet have been screened in local cinemas or on TV networks.

Judges will be able to watch the films in their own time via a password-protected internet channel and will be able to award points and write comments that will only be seen by festival organisers.

Judges will also receive full festival passes, and VIP invitations to the closing ceremony and a private event for award winners and jury.

Mr Hastings said: "We're already joining up with local people and businesses to turn the festival into a truly global, world-renowned event. We'll be promoting it to millions of people, throughout Surrey, London, across the UK, at Cannes and internationally. We've got some very exciting things scheduled and a few big surprises. The festival will be a celebratory, inclusive and fun event with something for everyone."

Also attending will be some of the best up-and-coming filmmakers around the world who will take part in Q&A panels and workshops and a range of fun events for families and children.

Awards go for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Woman Director, Best Actress, Best Actor, and a special trophy for the best film submitted by a Surrey-based filmmaker.

Those interested in applying to become a member of the festival jury for the SEIFF People's Choice award should go to SEIFF.shp.media.

Chris Hastings, SEIFF artistic director, Simon Durrant, Epsom Downs Racecourse general manager, and Angelo Viaro, owner of Il Grande Italian restaurant

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Websites on an upward curve with more visitors

By Simon Bull
Web manager
simon.bull@london.newsquest.co.uk

We'd like to tell you about how well our websites have been doing.

Our nine websites covering south London and Surrey had a combined audience of 1.43m during March, which was nearly 90,000 higher than the previous month.

As well as increasing month-to-month, some of our sites recorded very healthy annual growth from the same month last year.

Among the highlights were the Richmond & Twickenham Times which jumped by 21 per cent and the Croydon Guardian which had a 15 per cent year-on-year increase.

The number of users on the Sutton and Epsom Guardians also rose from March 2017.

In attracting more visitors, our sites are a great platform for advertisers looking to reach and influence large and highly engaged local audiences.

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Ben Aaronovitch's Q&A session at Stoneleigh Library

Rivers of London author's talk

A best-selling author has held a sell-out Q&A session at Stoneleigh Library.

Ben Aaronovitch, who wrote the highly-acclaimed 'Rivers of London' series, gave the inspiring talk on March 28.

As a keen supporter of libraries, Ben delighted the audience at the library in The Broadway with energetic tales of what life is like as a successful author.

He also touched upon his relationship with his book's characters and how different authors go about their writing.

An attendee said: "I found Ben's answers to the questions to be both refreshingly honest and very inspirational.

"It was fascinating to learn that Ben still doesn't know exactly why he appeals to such as wide audience.

"I left his talk with a real desire to read more of his books and I've borrowed a couple to get stuck into."

Ben finished the evening with a book signing, supported by Epsom's recently opened Waterstones bookshop.

Diana Kay, chair of the Friends of Stoneleigh Library, said: "We love giving the community a chance to engage with authors at these events."

Ben has also written Dr Who serials for the BBC and spin-off novels.

Runner raises £3k before run

Reporter
Sophie Jones
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An Epsom man has raised nearly £3,000 for a national charity ahead of taking part in the London Marathon.

Dipen Makhecha will be running the 26.2 mile course in April for Leukaemia Care, a national blood cancer charity.

The 38-year-old clinical pharmacist is running in memory of his grandmother.

Dipen said: "It's been over 14 years since I lost my Grandmother to multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer. It's hard to see someone you love so dearly be taken away so quickly. It really puts everything into perspective.

"I will always remember her love, inspiration and her passion for life."

To show his appreciation for all those that helped when his grandmother ill, Dipen will be running for Leukaemia Care.

The charity supports patients and families living with cancer through helplines, support groups, patient and carer conferences, nurse education days, cancer campaigning and accredited cancer information and literature.

Clare Brooks, who works with the marathon runners at Leukaemia Care, said: "Our runners make all the difference to people who need that bit extra support.

"I've followed all our runners, including Dipen, from the point of sign up and I can't wait for Dipen to cross that finishing line."

This will be Dipen's first marathon, having only recently completed his first half marathon earlier this year when he came in the top 10 per cent for the Thorpe Park Half Marathon.

"I'm hoping to run the marathon in four hours, not an easy task especially as this is my first marathon," he said.

"I have run up to 22 miles in training and I run consistently about three times a week at night once the kids have gone to sleep!"

Dipen's fundraising target was £2,250, but he has managed to smash his goal with a current total of £2,800.

If you'd like to help Dipen reach the £3,000 mark, you can donate via his online giving page at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DipenMakhecha

Dipen Makhecha is running the London Marathon for Leukaemia Care

Ewell spring clean

The annual spring clean is now back on for Ewell after The Beast from The East thwarted previous plans.

Ewell Village Residents Association, supported by Epsom & Ewell Council, and helped by Glyn School, will be holding the community litter picking morning on Saturday, April 21.Volunteers should assemble at 10am in Bourne Hall car park.

Litter pickers and refuse sacks will be provided, but bring your gloves and wear suitable clothing.

The original date, March 3, was cancelled because people were snowed in.

The Residents Association added that you can inform them of any litter 'hot spots' and they will try to target them on the day. For more information, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/ewellresidents/

Work on bridge means road shut

The A246 Young Street in Leatherhead will be closed for approximately five weeks from April 16.

This is to carry out essential maintenance on Mole Bridge, which needs urgent resurfacing due to wear of the waterproof layer.

The council said that unfortunately the bridge is too narrow to keep one lane open.

Tina Thorburn, from the Highways Team, said: "We hope it will only take five weeks, but inevitably this will this will lead to some disruption.

"We will do everything possible to keep it to a minimum.

"A signed diversion route will be put in place and you will still be able to access Bockett's Farm via the B2122 Guildford Road." Whilst the works are carried out there will be no access for pedestrians or cyclists either.

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Tony Tobin will be at the Ashley Centre

Chef ready to cook up a top treat

Times have now been announced for celebrity chef Tony Tobin's live cooking demonstrations in the Ashley Centre.

The TV chef, of Ready Steady Cook fame, will be cooking up the recipes of Epsom locals on April 14.

The live demos will be at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm in the centre outside House of Fraser.

The recipes are all contributions from the community chosen to go into the charity cookbook, 'Recipe for Success', which has now been published.

A spokeswoman for the Ashley Centre Said: "The Ashley Centre always supports a charity, and this year we have two – The Sunnybank Trust and the Epsom branch of Guide Dog Fundraising and Donations.

"We let them use the centre for fundraising, but we also wanted to do something to get the community involved.

"The lovely thing about the Ashley Centre is that it's very community-minded and also has a lot of independent shops.

"They decided that a recipe book would be a very good idea because it doesn't matter how old you are – you could be a five-year-old with a recipe for chocolate cornflake cakes or an older person with a family recipe – it's very inclusive."

Young and old joined in with the collaboration, West Ewell Primary School even encouraged children to send in recipes as part of a class project.

The Ashley Centre thanked everyone for sending in their best recipes for the book.

Flytippers pay price for action

Reporter
Sophie Jones
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Six individuals are counting the cost after being fined for fly-tipping and littering in Ewell.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council received complaints about an accumulation of waste in two roads off Kingston Road.

Having inspected and investigated the material, those responsible for contributing to the waste were fined more than £1,600 between them in March.

Councillor John Beckett, chairman of the Environment Committee said: "This council has weekly rubbish collections, we operate daily litter removal in our high traffic areas and we remove fly tips on public land typically within a few days of them being reported.

"Everyone has a legal duty of care to dispose of their waste responsibly.

"If people fail to take steps to ensure their waste is disposed of legitimately, and it's later found in a fly tip, they could end up being prosecuted or fined."

Flytipping in Kingston Road area

Councils now have the power to issue on-the-spot fines of between £150 and £400 for fly tipping, more serious fly tips are prosecuted through the courts.

Councillors stated this year they want to see more enforcement around antisocial behaviour.

A series of proposals, which includes how the council addresses littering, will be debated at the strategy and resources committee on April 17.

"Subject to what is agreed on the 17 April, we are determined to proactively go after those who are deliberately blemishing this area," said Cllr Beckett.

Fly tipping is defined as the illegal dumping of waste without the landowner's permission. A fly tip can range from a few black bags and loose materials next to a tree or bin, to larger items such as fridges, mattresses, builders' rubble and tyres.

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The Mayor of Epsom & Ewell attending the schools music festival

Festival is music to the ears

Epsom and Ewell Schools Music Festival has delighted the ears of listeners once again this year.

The annual festival was held in The Epsom Playhouse and attended by family and friends of performers, as well as the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Liz Frost.

The two-day event took place on the March 27 and 28 as part of the year-round series of events which promote musical collaboration.

Kathryn Dray, of Stamford Green Primary School, orchestrated the event.

She said: "This is our seventh music festival and I'm astonished at the incredible talent in Epsom and Ewell.

"Thank you to the children and adults that made this music festival possible."

The distinguished guests were treated to a mixture of modern and traditional numbers sung by children from 18 schools from across the borough, including infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools.

Child parking plea for centre

Reporter
Sophie Jones
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A Banstead mum's petition for parent and child parking spaces in the Ashley Centre has received more than 1,200 signatures.

Kirsty Zambourides was compelled to start the petition on change.org after her daughter, Violet, was nearly run over in the Ashley Centre carpark, where parents have to park in normal-sized bays.

Kirsty has subsequently visited the Ashley Centre, but would rather park on the roof in the rain than in a busier area due to the danger of other drivers to her children.

Paul Alexander, who signed, said: "This makes perfect sense with parents having young children. I would think from aged five and under."

Margot Evans said: "I look after my grandchildren and would like to use Ashley Centre but will be put off doing so until there are a suitable number of allocated parent/child car parking spaces."

Kirsty Zambourides with her children Violet and George

"Unfortunately, I no longer visit Epsom due to the amount of times I have struggled to get my daughter out of her car seat because there is not one single parent and child space," wrote Harriet Evans.

The Council owns the carpark, and a spokesman said it was the first time it had ever received a complaint about the lack of parent and child parking.

The carpark will be resurfaced soon and the council said it will look at the feasibility of introducing child and parent parking spaces.

That decision will be balanced against the loss of the other spaces.

The petition was launched in November 2017, since then it's had 1,298 signatures.

You can sign it at change.org/p/epsom-and-ewell-council-ashley-centre-car-park-mother-and-baby-spaces

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Meningitis trial

Reporter
Liam McInerney
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The NHS is encouraging teenagers to take part in a trial to learn whether a Meningitis B vaccine could protect them and people of all ages from the infection.

Researchers, who are working with schools in south London, want 24,000 volunteers for the study.

Volunteers need to be aged 16-18 to do the Teenagers Against Meningitis trial.

MenB can cause meningitis and blood poisoning – both can be fatal or can cause long lasting damage.

Meningitis is inflammation of membranes that surround the brain.

The volunteers will receive two doses of MenB vaccine and two throat swabs taken two months apart. Researchers will determine whether the vaccine reduces the number of students holding meningitis-causing bacteria in their throat.

Sutton High School and Burntwood School in Tooting have already taken part. Greenwich teenager, Fiona Yelland, 15, described falling ill with meningitis on October 4, 2011, as like having intense pins and needles.

She said: "The disease is ridiculously fast working; I felt fine in the morning and was on life support by mid day.

Fiona Yelland, 15, from Greenwich

"Since being involved with Meningitis Now and raising awareness about research we've achieved so much. MenB is not only one of the most prevalent types it's the one that causes most damage the other end.

"Preventing the carriage of it is essential to trying to eradicate it eventually."

Fiona, who suffered short term memory problems for up to six months, is now a Young Ambassador for the charity Meningitis Now.

People most at risk of meningitis are babies, pre-school children and teenagers.

Professor Paul Heath, Children Speciality Group Lead with the National Institute for Health Research in South London, said: "MenB is the main strain causing meningitis in the UK and at the moment our focus is on vaccinating infants.

"We are interested to find out if this trial will provide the evidence to justify a different approach to meningitis vaccinations that may have a greater impact."

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Gardiners NMC won two awards at 'The Oscars' of the coach touring industry

Coach tour prizes for Epsom firm

An Epsom coach tour provider won two industry awards at a glitzy event in the National Motorcycle Museum in Solihull.

Gardiners NMC won two awards at the recent British Coach Tourism Awards, at a glittering event at the National Motorcycle Museum on March 21.

The company won Best Holiday Programme and Travel Professionals of the Year at the British Coach Tourism Awards.

Adrian Smith, managing director, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff for all their hard work to help us achieve these accolades and to all our customers who enjoy travelling with us."

The judges said they were impressed by the variety of breaks and holidays on offer and praised the quality of the operation, excellent vehicles and hotels, and outstanding itineraries.

'The Oscars' of the coach touring industry were hosted by former newsreader, Angela Rippon.

Gardiners NMC acquired Epsom Coaches of Surrey in 2017 and in recognition of steering a seamless transition, they won Travel Professionals of the Year in 2017.

The recipients of this award were managing director Adrian Smith, and Melanie Cox and Alistair Scott, both formerly of Epsom Coaches.

Running in pet's memory

Half marathon cash for canine charity

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

A couple grieving the loss their dog have pledged to run the Reigate Half Marathon in her memory.

Heather and Matt Bray from Horley, whose adopted dog Milly died three weeks ago, are raising money for Epsom Canine Rescue.

Milly was a border collie cross who lived a long and happy life, getting sick suddenly at the age of about 15.

The couple hope to raise £1,502.18, which represents the date Milly passed away on February 15.

Heather said: "Milly was incredibly complicated and since she came into our life in 2009, everything has been built around her. 2018 is now stretching out ahead with an emptiness we never expected and never wanted.

"It feels like a good use of all that dog-walking time to train for something meaningful.

"Although pretty fit, neither of us are runners – with a sum total of 6 runs between us ever – this is going to be a big challenge."

Heather and Matt adopted Milly, formerly Amelia, in October 2009 and quickly formed a very deep bond with her.

Formed in 1995, Epsom Canine Rescue relies solely on donations to keep running.

The charity rescues and re-homes of unwanted and stray dogs, undertaking neutering, vaccinating and micro-chipping prior to finding them a new home.

The run is on September 16.

Heather and Matt have currently raised more than £300; to donate visit justgiving.com/fundraising/heather-and-matt.

Milly, who was adopted by Heather and Matt Bray

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Crucifixion held in the high street

Reporter
Sophie Jones
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Epsom's sixth Passion Play was attended by a large crowd on Good Friday.

Churches Together in Epsom worked across six Christian denominations to remember the crucifixion of Jesus more than 2,000 years ago.

This year the script was reworked by Craig Donovan, who also directed both the actors and musicians. Andy Hards, from Christ Church in Epsom, played Jesus.

Susan Curtis, from Churches Together in Epsom, said: "The Christian churches in Epsom are very grateful to have this annual opportunity to share their faith in an accessible and dramatic way, in what is now very much an Epsom community event."

The audience and actors gathered at Dulshott Green to witness Jesus' betrayal by Judas, arrest trails and torment in the garden.

Onlookers were incorporated into the drama as a crowd, many of whom were shouting for Christ's crucifixion.

The procession then moved from the Green to Market Square along the High Street, with Jesus carrying his cross and the crowd shouting.

The crucifixion scene happened in Epsom's market place; the actor playing Pilate silenced the crowd and Jesus was executed.

Easter Sunday, when Jesus' body is discovered missing and Mary encounters the risen Jesus, was also portrayed.

After celebratory singing from cast and crowd, the new chair of Churches Together in Epsom, Chris Shaw, finished with words of blessing.

The crowd were refreshed with buns and a tent remained in the town centre for people to come for refection or information.

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Jesus is led away by the soldiers

'I wash my hands,' says Pilate who hands Jesus over

The crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday

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DEBATE GUARDIAN

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Patron announced

Ahead of the opening of their new season and their 40th anniversary next year, Artistic Director of Polka Theatre, Peter Glanville, announced that Amanda Holden will join the theatre as a new patron. Holden has been specifically brought on to support the upcoming Future Polka capital development which is scheduled to begin next year.

Holden joins Polka's existing patrons Sir Alan Ayckbourn, Malorie Blackman OBE, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Gyles Brandreth, Cerrie Burnell, Omid Djalili, Vicky Ireland MBE, Joanna Lumley OBE, Sadiq Khan, Kevin O'Hare, Dr Sir Ken Robinson, Michael Rosen, Derek Tullett CBE, Lady Vereker, Dame June Whitfield DBE and David Wood OBE.

Of the partnership, Amanda Holden said: "Now more than ever we should encourage our children to lift their heads from digital entertainment and get out into the world.

"There is nowhere better for children to escape and have fun than the theatre. In any capacity! Watching or Acting. My girls and I love going to Polka Theatre. It's special place just for children, where they can use their imagination, be creative and most importantly gain confidence, which is why the capital development is so important to enable Polka to continue the great work that they do.'

Peter Glanville, Artistic Director of Polka, added: 'We're thrilled Amanda has agreed to become a Polka Patron. It's wonderful to have her as an ambassador for our theatre for children during this important year of our Future Polka appeal. We've just secured the Stage Two Arts Council funding and are now focusing our efforts on raising the remaining funds to redevelop Polka for the first time since we opened in 1979."

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picture of the week

Valerie May took this snowy picture of Burgh Heath on February 26 when the Beast from the East arrived. If you have a Borough View picture you would like to be considered for publication email it to pwarner@london.newsquest.co.uk

Support for motorist who had fine cancelled by the hospital

St Helier Hospital were right to cancel Mr Naqshbandi's parking fine and he is right to ask them to review their parking policy, especially for disabled patients, (Fined as disabled son was at hospital', March 15).

In 2014 a Freedom of Information request established* that the Epsom and St Helier Trust received £1.58million from its car park in just one year and the fees brought in around £200million a year across England.

However the Trust's web site says: "Our car parks are not run as a commercial operation" and only what's left over, after car park maintenance, security and sundries, goes for clinical services.

Katherine Murphy, chief executive of the Patients Association, said: "It is a tax on sick people who sometimes struggle to pay.

"The money is never reinvested in frontline services.

"Hospital car parks are often managed by private contractors who take a huge percentage of the profits."

She added: "This is morally wrong – and charging disabled people is a disgrace." In Scotland and Wales, where the SNP and Labour respectively run the NHS, hospital parking is free.

But here, as Conservative central government cuts continue to squeeze hospital trusts dry, Department of Health per person spending will be less in 2019-20 than it was 2009-10 when the Tories took over and the NHS is funded less per person than all comparable Western economies.

So the latest Tory local council election leaflet which claims "We are the only party to be 100% behind the NHS", is extremely misleading.

Such a claim doesn't merit our trust or votes.

David Murray
Blenheim Gardens
Wallington
Surrey

Girl guiding fun

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

Nearly 70 local girls took part in an afternoon of activities learning about the patron saints of the United Kingdom.

Spring Downs District Girlguiding, which merged the old Ewell Village and Epsom East districts, held their annual fun day on March 17 at Ewell Castle School

Brownies made edible shamrock hats, daffodil stained glass windows, fish sand art necklaces and decorated a dragon keyring.

Guides went on a letter hunt around the village to spell out a name of a patron saint, decorated fish shaped boxes and made cupcakes.

Epsom Division commissioner Mary Zoeller said: "This was a great afternoon where the different age groups took part in lots of different activities before coming together for the popular parachute games and a sing song.

"We'd like to thank Ewell Castle School for kindly letting us use their Sixth Form block for the day, and congratulations to Spring Downs District Commissioner Clare Graham for organising such a successful event."

Girlguiding offer girls aged five and over weekly meetings, pack holidays, camps, days out and lots of un taking part in activities to empower, educate and gain confidence.

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Deaths

Mary Elizabeth Bicknell

Much loved, devoted sister and cousin, friend to many, sadly passed away on Thursday 8th March, aged 87.

The funeral service will be held at Randalls Park Crematorium on Monday 9th April at 2.45pm. No flowers by request but donations welcome to Princess Alice Hospice c/o W.A. Truelove, 121 High Street, Banstead, SM7 2NS or online via www.watltd.co.uk

BOWKER, Ellen (née TODD)
TODD, Ivy Mary Ellen (née Nash)

Passed away peacefully on 20th March aged 98 years in the loving care of staff at Roseland, Banstead.

Loved and loving mother of Ann and Sue, grandmother and great-grandmother. Former WAAF. widow of the late Arthur Todd (married 58 years) and the late Derek Bowker (married 9 years).

Funeral service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Friday 20th April at 2.45 p.m. Family flowers only please. If wished, donations in Ivy's memory to RAF Benevolent Fund or Rosehomes - Roseland a/c, c/o W A Truelove, 14/18 Church Road, Epsom, KT17 4AB

In Memoriam

CAROL ROSEMARY OWEN
16.12.1947-5.4.2008

No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there.

Sadly missed by Husband Pete, Children Karen and Paul, Sister Sandy, Len and family, Brothers Tony, John, Roger and Mike, Grandaughters Megan and Phoebe.

Along with Gareth and her many friends

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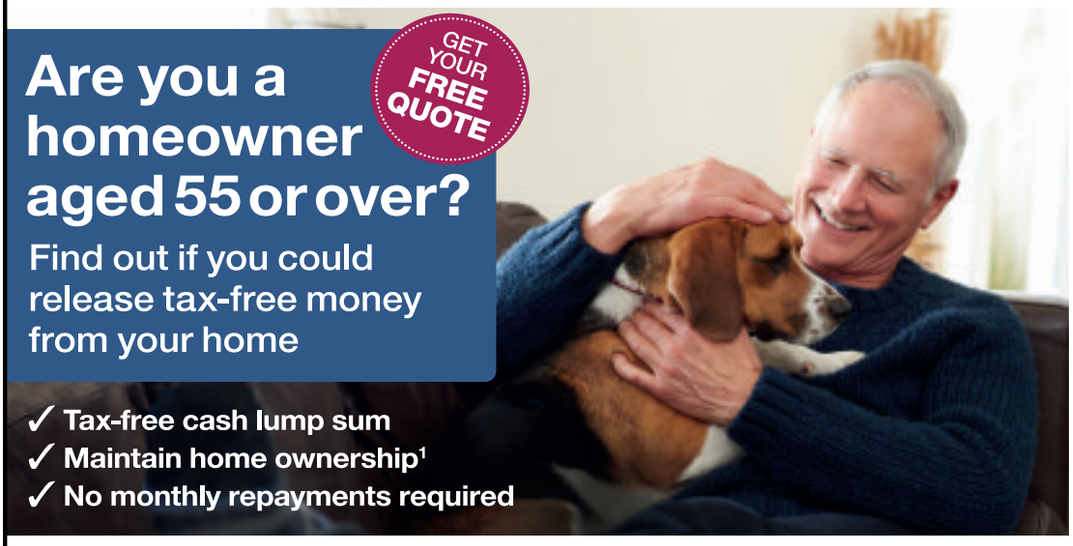

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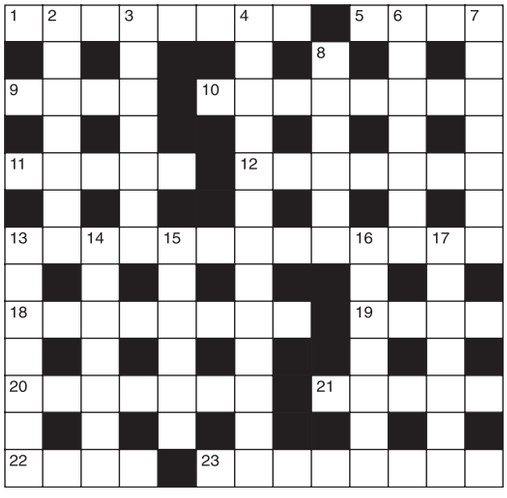
PUZZLES

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Conducting us and the woman in G (8)
5. Instrument of honour with a hole in it (4)
9. I labour almost entirely to return to the island (4)
10. Draws a Tory leader with pamphlets (8)
11. I'm sad about the king (5)
12. Special clothes for knocking back a first class drink (7)
13. Cried that Clay was knocked out in Durham (9,4)
18. Bestowal of gifts on Spain's capital, say (8)
19. They're crackers! (4)
20. Tasting of Chablis terminated due to a sore (7)
21. Money for a girl (5)
22. Oh, certainly there's some return of sound (4)
23. Man has an announcement concerning another man (8)

Down

2. Nat's aim turns out to be endurance (7)
3. A pip the wrecker found on a gravestone (7)
4. Never sure rate of exchange here (6,7)
6. Being sick in the back of a taxi due to bacteria (7)
7. Catholic saint in simple rapture (7)
8. Living without waste right in the midst of a Gulf war (6)
13. Ability of Liberal taken into consideration (7)
14. Spoil the sailor with a broken shin (7)
15. Chooses Les, etc., somehow (6)
16. Caught? Not out at the finish you maintain (7)
17. Bird I can confuse with a boat (7)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Escorting (8)
5. Instrument (4)
9. Indonesian island (4)
10. Draws (8)
11. Legendary king (5)
12. Ceremonial emblems or robes (7)
13. Location of the main church of a diocese (9,4)
18. Generosity (8)
19. Kernels (4)
20. Swelling (7)
21. Coin (5)
22. Reverberation (4)
23. Founder of an order of monks (8)

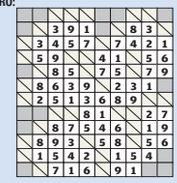
Down

2. Enduring energy (7)
3. Commemorative inscription (7)
4. Protected area of land (6,7)
6. Bacteria (7)
7. Rapture (7)
8. Thrifty (6)
13. Diameter of a bullet (7)
14. Taint (7)
15. Votes in (6)
16. Vie (7)
17. Famous ship (7)

Last week's solutions

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD:
Across: 1 Polytechnics; 7 Clasp; 8 Rebel; 9 Foe; 10 Fantastic; 11 Caters; 12 Discus; 15 Certainly; 17 Err; 18 Arose; 19 Enoch; 21 Cantankerous. Down: 1 Pacific Ocean; 2 Tea; 3 Coping; 4 Normality; 5 Cabot; 6 Alice Springs; 7 Cleft; 10 Firmament; 13 Czech; 14 Intern; 16 Rhoda; 20 Ore.

KAKURO:



CLOCKWORD: 1 Writhe, 2 Ignite, 3 League, 4 Little, 5 Yankee, 6 Ravine, 7 Umpire, 8 Scheme, 9 Scythe, 10 Elapse, 11 Lustre, 12 Loathe.

DRAMATIST: Willy Russell.

BATTLESHIPS:

CIRCLEGRAM: The letter represented by the question mark is L. Senegal, Liberia, Algeria, all African countries.

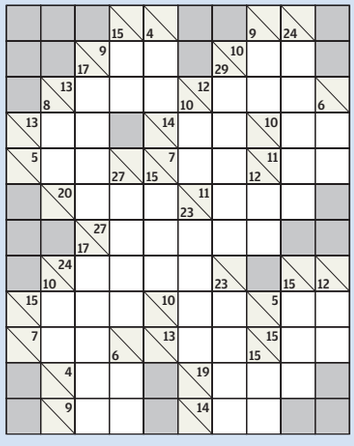
NINER: BUDGETARY

SPLIT DECISION:

S	A	L	V	O	P	R	O	O	F
N		O		I	A		L		L
A	N	N	U	L	V	I	D	E	O
I		E		E	E		E		O
L	U	R	I	D	D	A	R	E	D

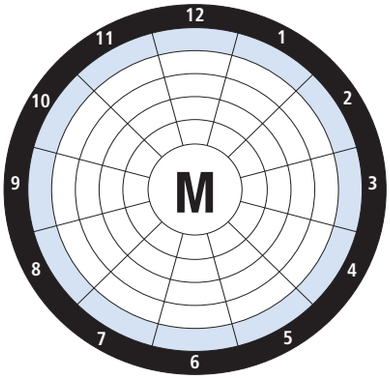
KAKURO

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9. Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it. No number may be used more than once in any one block.



CLOCKWORD

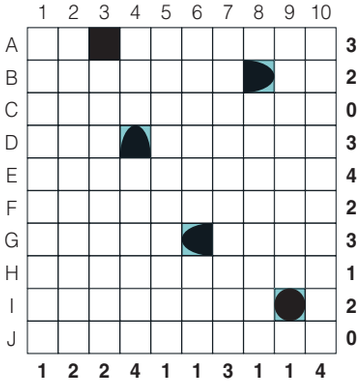
The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter M in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late Hollywood actress.



1. Incendiary substance
2. Heavy element
3. Haphazard
4. Average
5. National song
6. Piercing cry
7. Light gas
8. Preserve
9. Glowing
10. Alter
11. Respect
12. Radioactive element

BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the 10 by 10 grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.



THE FLEET

1 x Battleship

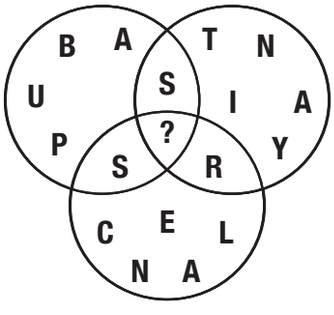
2 x Cruiser

3 x Destroyer

4 x Submarine

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

THE CLUES:

9627	gives fruit;
6537	gives fruit;
185949	gives snack food

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

C/S	G/U	G/R	A/V	D/R
T/L		I/A		W/A
A/U	D/L	N/U	A/L	T/R
B/M		G/H		E/Z
M/P	E/W	T/E	X/L	S/D

R/P	R/S	L/O	N/Z	T/G
A/I		O/D		R/W
V/F	I/O	D/N	D/K	S/A
F/E		E/L		D/M
D/S	T/X	Y/R	X/L	E/S

Specsavers Specsavers Specsavers

Group is set up for retired men

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

Men are particularly vulnerable to isolation in old age

Picture: Age Concern

Age Concern Epsom and Ewell have recently set up New Style Men's Group for older men living in the area.

According to the cross-party Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness by the Royal Voluntary Service, more than a quarter of men aged 65 to 69 said retiring left them feeling lonely.

This new group will enable like-minded men of retirement age to get together and form friendships around activities they choose, rather than a set menu of options.

The pilot scheme has been set-up this year thanks to national lottery funding, which Age Concern was awarded in November 2017.

Ian Parsons, project coordinator, said: "The group was designed after some men in Epsom and Ewell were becoming isolated.

"We are open to all suggestions of activities and will assist members to achieve their choices as best possible.

"This model is an exciting new opportunity for those who join as the activities will be drawn from its members preferences and wishes."

Age Concern, which is based in The Parade, Epsom, will broker the group and its members will run as many of the activities as they can.

Skilled volunteers will support the group with the emphasis being on members making decisions on its direction, and having fun.

The Men's Group could evolve into several smaller groups engaging in a variety of projects to suit personal interests.

Mr Parsons said they can also help with transport if needed, contact Ian at Age Concern to learn more visit 01372 732 463 or ian.parsons@ageconcernepsom.org.uk

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the guide
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Listen to the sounds of legendary Lizzy

Regarded as one of the UK's leading tribute bands Limehouse Lizzy come to the Boom Boom Club in Sutton this Friday (April 6).

Limehouse pay homage to the kings of Classic Rock and Phil Lynott in particular.

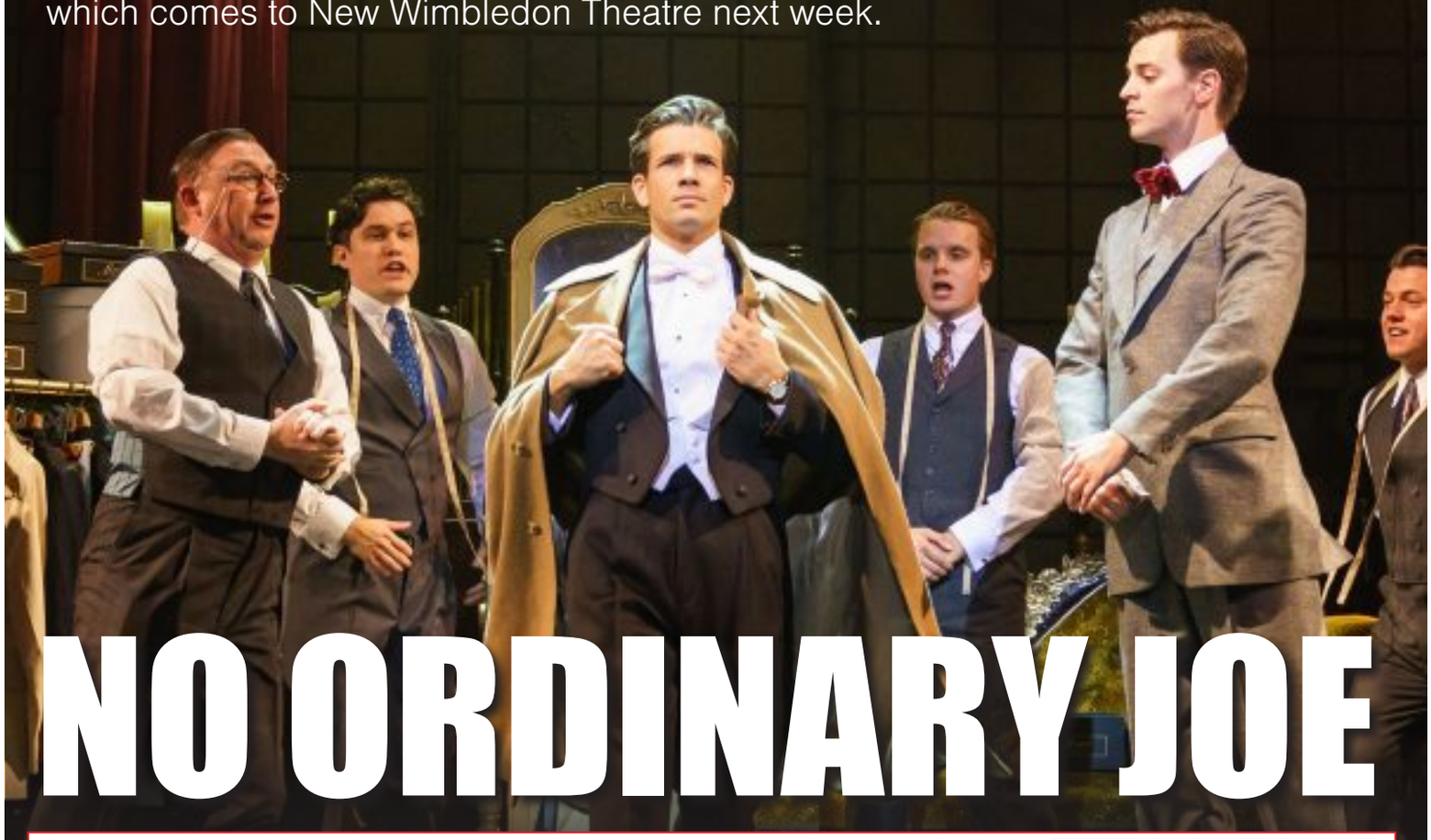
Thin Lizzy were a unique blend of Celtic Rock, and were blessed with one the most charismatic front men in the business. Limehouse Lizzy are similarly fortunate in having Lynott lookalike/soundalike Wayne Ellis.

Playing a blistering two set show, Limehouse will play a host of crowd-pleasing favourites such as The Boys Are Back in Town, Suicide and Dancing in The Moonlight to Whiskey in The Jar, Sarah, Parisienne Walkways and The Cowboy Song.

Limehouse Lizzy recreate the atmosphere and passion of the days of Classic Rock and when the multi talented Phil Lynott was still with us.

Limehouse Lizzy, The Boom Boom Club, Sutton United FC, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2EY, April 6, doors 7.30pm, tickets £14/£16. Visit feenstra.co.uk

Danny Mac talks to SIMON BUTTON about playing Joe Gillis in Sunset Boulevard which comes to New Wimbledon Theatre next week.



NO ORDINARY JOE

What are you most enjoying about playing Joe Gillis? I love the level that he starts at in the show. I think it comes with age, but with a lot of the characters I've played previously they've been young men discovering themselves and stuff whereas this guy is a man and he's already been through it all. He's kind of at the end of his tether in this situation already and that's just when the show opens so from that point you just build and build. It's been so great to take on a character who already has so much substance and already has so much stuff going on. To build from there is a real gift, plus it's one of the few parts you can play in the theatre – either in a play or a musical – where he just doesn't leave the stage. I think I leave the stage maybe twice during the whole show so there's not much time to step out of the character. You jump on that treadmill and you keep on running straight through to the end, which means the character's journey feels so much more substantial and full. You go on that journey and you take the audience with you from start to finish.

How would you sum him up as a character? He's wonderfully flawed. He hasn't gotten everything right but he thinks he has. Everything is told from his point of view and he doesn't really see his mistakes; he thinks it's him who is doing everything right and everyone and everything else is failing around him when actually it's him who is making the wrong decisions. That's where it leads to at the end – you see his downfall because of that and I think it's what brings about his demise. He's dug his own grave.

William Holden was nominated for an Oscar for his performance in the film version and many big names have played the role in the musical. Have you watched the movie or YouTube clips or have you avoided that so you can give your own take on it? I've approached the character like it's brand new, which is really nice. I knew of the show and the basic story but I didn't know the details of it. It was from listening to the soundtrack and reading the script that I realised it's a role that's impossible to say no to. I actually told my agent I wasn't keen on doing a musical straight after having done On The Town over the summer, but then I listened to the soundtrack and read the script and I phoned my agent back and said 'I think we need to rethink this because this character is just fantastic'. I've watched the film because stylistically the show has grown out of the movie, not just in terms of the film itself but also the era in which it was set and the time it was filmed. The show is very true to the original conception. Once you take on a role you still go on your own journey and with it being a musical rather than a straight play it's already an accentuation of the original. But I haven't seen anyone else play the part so it's been nice to bring my own take on it. Nikolai Foster, our incredible director, was fantastic about encouraging me to do that. We agreed on a lot of stuff about the character and he's so generous as a director in guiding us. There were times when there were things we didn't agree on and it was so liberating to argue or discuss it throughout the rehearsal process. Not every decision I instantly made I subsequently stuck with because that's the whole point of the process. Joe's probably the most thought-out overall character I've ever had the pleasure of building and that's what's so great about being able to play him. It's also why I ended up extending my run as Joe into 2018 because I kind of wasn't ready to give up this role yet. I want to be able to share it for longer with more people because it's something I feel such a great ownership over.

What's your fondest memory of doing Strictly? It's got to be the dance routines I was able to produce each week, which constantly reminds me now of things I'm able to do even though I might not think I can. That's something I'll always take from doing that show. If I'd been asked to play Joe Gillis before I'd done Strictly I'd probably have said no simply through fear that I couldn't do it and a million people could do it better. But this role, as far as I'm concerned, belongs to me and I own it. I don't mean that in a cocky or arrogant way, but if you don't walk out there and own that role you're doing the piece and the rest of the cast a disservice.

Sunset Boulevard, New Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, Wimbledon,, April 10-14. Visit atgtickets.com/venues/new-wimbledon-theatre

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WHAT DAD COOKED

BANGERS AND MASH — SPANISH STYLE

With these bangers and mash the sausages and potatoes are replaced with chorizo and seasonal butternut squash and the gravy is replaced with a Spanish pepper sauce.

TIME: 1 hour 15 minutes Serves: 4 Level: easy

WHAT YOU NEED:

1 medium butternut squash – approx. 1.25kg
8 large cooking chorizo sausages
200g button mushrooms
1 red pepper
1 yellow pepper
2 large cloves of garlic, sliced
2 bay leaves
300ml chicken stock
1 tsp tomato paste
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp paprika (preferably Spanish piementon)
About 24 black olives
4 sprigs of rosemary

HOW DAD COOKED IT:

I find butternut squash extraordinarily difficult to cut and peel when raw. So I've come up with a workaround: I put the squash in the oven, lock, stock and barrel. After an hour it's cooked into soft submission.

It works a treat – the flesh is easily scooped from the skin, and the roasting intensifies the flavour. While the squash is cooking the rest of the dish can be prepared.

Preheat the oven. 180C, Gas 4.

Cook the squash. Wash the squash, place on a tray and put in the oven. A medium-sized squash will take about an hour – turn it over half way through cooking.

Let it cool and then cut in half and scoop out the seeds and discard.

Scoop the flesh from the skin and put into a pan with a knob of butter. Re-heat the squash gently and beat with a potato masher. Season.

Cook the chorizo. Fry the chorizo in a little oil on a medium heat, until browned. This will take about 20 minutes.

Make the sauce. Slice the peppers and gently fry with a couple tablespoons of oil.

These need to cook slowly, about 20 minutes.

When they start to go brown, add the garlic and the bay leaves and cook for a further 8 minutes (don't let the garlic burn).

Then add the stock, tomato paste, oregano, olives and paprika and cook for 5 minutes. Taste for seasoning.

Meanwhile, fry the mushrooms in a little butter and oil until browned.

Serve. Fry the rosemary sprigs in hot oil and drain on a kitchen towel. Place two sausages on a pile of squash, add the sauce and garnish with the mushrooms and rosemary.

For more recipes like this visit whatdadcooked.com

FILMCHOICE

Tye Sheridan as Wade Watts in Ready Player One. Picture: PA Photo/Warner Bros.

ISLE OF DOGS (PG): Writer-director Wes Anderson returns to stop-motion animation for a self-consciously offbeat buddy comedy on two and four legs. Isle Of Dogs reunites the filmmaker with longtime collaborators behind and in front of the camera including cinematographer Tristan Oliver and composer Alexandre Desplat. Anderson employs an episodic structure with pithy chapter headings like The Little Pilot, The Rendezvous and Atari's Lantern to neatly bookmark his visually stunning odyssey of a 12-year-old boy (Koyu Rankin), who intends to be reunited with his shaggy pet. The detail of miniature sets and character figures is remarkable and there are some lovely touches like multiple uses for cotton wool and lice slaloming through dogs' matted fur in skin-crawling close-up. The film is arch, knowing and impeccably conceived but emotionally a tad chilly, revelling in the inventiveness and imagination of the writer-director's unique vision at the expense of collaring our emotions for a satisfying walk.

READY PLAYER ONE (12A): Set in the mid-21st century, Ready Player One is a dystopian big budget fantasy, which imagines a resource-depleted world that relies on virtual reality as an escape from the gloom of the everyday. On more than one occasion, Steven Spielberg's film issues dire warnings about the zombification of entire generations, who believe "meaningful" relationships can be forged online. "Reality is the only thing that's real," proclaims one pivotal character. It's a bitter irony that Spielberg's picture gleefully ignores its own advice to hurtle at breakneck speed into eye-popping digital realms crammed with gaming in-jokes, but offers us no compelling reason to remove the goggles and interface in person. As a visual spectacle, the film is a tour-de-force of technical wizardry. Unfortunately, the fast and furious smacking of gobs doesn't extend to a script adapted from Ernest Cline's celebrated 2011 novel by the author and Zak Penn.

BLOCKERS (15, 102 mins): Forget the sugar and spice and all things nice. The girls in Pitch Perfect screenwriter Kay Cannon's filthy-minded directorial debut are full of sexually suggestive emojis, bold self-expression and a generous smattering of insecurities. They are doyennes of social media, who talk openly about their feelings and have fewer sexual hang-ups than their emotionally bruised parents, whose vigour has been eroded by failed marriages, financial responsibility and the fear of growing old. Blockers engineers a hilarious battle of wits between these two generations during one eventful prom night. Less raunchy and riotous than Girls Trip but aimed at a similar if slightly younger audience, Cannon's potty-mouthed comedy tempers the bittersweet with the saltiness of some outrageous set pieces including a bout of full-frontal roleplay. Naughtiness sexts niceness throughout Brian Kehoe and Jim Kehoe's warm-hearted script, which is punctuated with poignant scenes of self-reflection and parental pride.

MIDNIGHT SUN (12A): A good heart is surprisingly easy to find in Midnight Sun, a gushing terminal illness weepie, which targets the same teenage tear ducts as The Fault In Our Stars. Directed with a heavy hand by Scott Speer, this English language remake of a 2006 Japanese film quickly distils the facts about a recessive condition called Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP), which is triggered by exposure to sunlight. Consequently, the luminous yet pale-skinned heroine of Speer's film, who suffers from XP, is consigned to her house by day behind special blinds, a distant observer to the ebb and flow of the daily life of hormone-addled peers. Bella Thorne channels the goofy charm of early Sandra Bullock in the central role, replete with nervous nose snorts, while Arnold Schwarzenegger's model son Patrick seizes his first leading role as a sensitive swimming team dreamboat. It's a potentially sickly confection and there are moments of shameless emotional manipulation in Eric Kirsten's script, tethered to the central character's burgeoning talent as a guitar-strumming singer-songwriter. However, there are also sweet and surprisingly touching scenes before the inevitable deluge of saltwater, galvanised by the smouldering screen chemistry of the two attractive leads.

PACIFIC RIM UPRISING (12A): Steven S DeKnight makes an inauspicious feature film directorial debut with a soulless and bombastic sequel, which has been crudely bolted together using spare parts from Transformers and Independence Day: Resurgence. Lorne Balfe's thunderous orchestral score competes with cacophonous sound effects to make us wince in our seats from the opening titles. The discomfort intensifies when characters open their mouths to spew risible exchanges that pass for dialogue. The film's gleaming hardware is impressive: hulking, digitally rendered robots cutting a swathe through the toppling skyscrapers of Tokyo with flame-licked swords, or grappling above and below the cracking ice of a Siberian wilderness. When it comes to the software of a malfunctioning script credited to four writers, Pacific Rim Uprising is in dire need of upgrades. Character development is laughable and pivotal deaths barely register an emotional ripple.

UNSANE (15): Seeing is deceiving in Steven Soderbergh's hallucinogenic mind trip for a traumatised data analyst (Claire Foy), who sees the menacing face of a stalker everywhere she turns. Scripted by Johan Bernstein and James Greer, Unsane is shot entirely on a smartphone and generates sparks of claustrophobia from the restricted screen framing and occasional blurring of images as characters race around dimly lit corridors. Visuals are intentionally murky, reflecting the gloom that descends upon the stricken heroine as she is separated from people she loves and the security of her home environment. In his capacity as director and editor, Soderbergh loosens his usually firm grasp on the film's quickening pulse as boundaries between reality and nightmarish imagination blur with violent consequences. Shaky handheld camerawork has a verite, improvised quality akin to a fly-on-the-wall documentary rather than a studio-financed psychological thriller. Once the script commits itself to revealing whether the terror is only in the central character's muddled head, tension dissipates.

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NAEA: First-time buyer stamp duty cut is working — but more needed

The National Association of Estate Agents says the government's first time buyer stamp duty incentive "seems to be having the desired effect" - but insists more can be done to boost the market.

The association says the proportion of sales to FTBs rose to 29 per cent in February, from 27 per cent in January; year-on-year the figures for February were the best monthly results for first time buyers in three years.

Meanwhile across the market as a whole the average number of sales agreed per branch rose from seven in January to eight last month. However, the number of prospective house-hunters fell by 16 per cent in February – from 367 registered per branch, to 309.
Year-on-year this is down by 28 per cent, as agents had 425 house-hunters registered per branch in February 2017.

In line with demand, the number of properties available for sale per branch dropped from 36 in January to 35 in February.

In terms of prices, some 74 per cent of properties sold for less than the original asking price in February with only four per cent selling for more; properties which sold at asking price stood at 22 per cent – the highest level since June 2016, when 26 per cent of properties went for asking price.

"Since the Chancellor cut stamp duty for first-time buyers, there have been a good level of sales to the group, but they haven't rocketed. Our members have noticed FTBs holding off on making purchases since the rule was introduced – typically outside of London – opting instead to save for longer to maximise the full stamp duty relief" explains Mark Hayward, the NAEA's chief executive.

He continues: "This may be one reason sales are up but not as high as we might expect; the other reason is the cost of buying is still very high, and FTBs are still finding it difficult to save for their deposit. As the cost of living continues to rise – with consumer price inflation standing at 2.5 per cent in February – we still have a long way to go to make the dream of owning a home accessible to all, but this is definitely a step in the right direction."

Meanwhile the NAEA has also praised the Welsh Government for setting its replacement for stamp duty - known as Land Transaction Tax - at a level which the association advocated.

Mark Hayward says: "We're pleased that the Welsh Government has listened to our proposals and next week will be introducing new tax bands in Wales; house buyers will really feel the difference of these changes. For buyers at the lower end of the market, the new bandings mean they won't pay any land transaction on properties worth up to £180,000; this is the value of the average house price in Wales."

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Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been received:

17/01866/ADV **44 High Street, Epsom, Surrey**
Installation of 3 fascia sign halo illuminated / protruding sign and awnings to shop front

17/01869/LBA **Former Epsom Post Office, 74 High Street, Epsom**
Internal and external demolition, refurbishment and extension to building (Listed Building Consent)

Applications may be viewed online: http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Planning or alternatively by visiting Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY during office hours or in local public libraries with internet access. Should you wish to comment please use our website or email supportgrouprequests@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to Place Development at the above address. Please make sure that you quote the application reference number. Comments should be sent within 21 days from the date of this notice. All comments will be publicly available for inspection and will be displayed online.

Please note that details of all planning applications received are available on the Council's website.

Head of Place Development
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

DOLORES IRENE ALLISTONE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 42 Culverhay Ashtead Surrey KT21 1PR, who died on 09/03/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/06/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

QUALITYSOLICITORS COPLEY CLARK
36 Grove Road Sutton
Surrey SM1 1BS *T526666*

PATRICIA MARY CHUTER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 67 Manor Green Road Epsom KT19 8RN, who died on 22/12/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 06/06/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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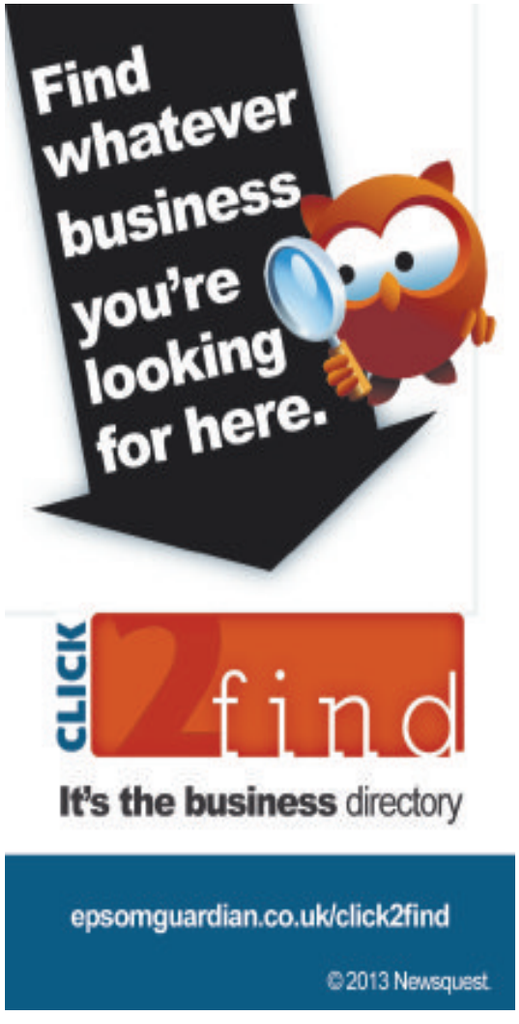
(Ref: ULA/4207990P/Chuter) *T526770*

STEPHEN RICHARD RICE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 50 Duncan Road, Burgh Heath, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6DR, who died on 01/10/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 06/06/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Lesley Rice, The London Gazette (5559), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD.



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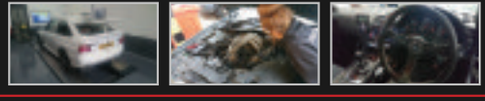

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Epsom Guardian
Sport

Club records tumble for Harriers

A small number of Harriers competed in the Bracknell Open meeting with considerable success, **writes Stuart Flack**.

Sophie Osborn won the 600m in 1 mins 49.44 secs to break the u13 club record and go to 6th on the UK rankings.

In the sprints, Anna Pickup took another u13 club record with a win over 150m in 20.28 secs and Charlotte Williams recorded a personal best of 28.56 secs over 200m.

Gabby Ceccherini opened her season with 2 mins 41.65 over 800m.

The third club record of the week went to Rosie Clarke who broke her own 1500m record in Nathan, Australia.

In a race won by fellow GB international Laura Weightman, Rosie finished 5th in 4 mins 11.24 secs, showing that she is in good form ahead of the Commonwealth Games in which she will compete in the 3000m steeplechase next Wednesday.

Hero Healy hits winner

It was a bumper Easter weekend for Carshalton Athletic as the club now has one eye on the Bostik South title, **writes James Barrett-Sterling**.

The Robins ended an away hoodoo by picking up a rare three points at Faversham Town on Saturday, then a spectacular 94th minute strike by 19-year old Ryan Healy finally broke a stubborn South Park rearguard on Bank Holiday Monday.

Those victories see second-placed Carshalton now just two points behind league leaders Lewes but with a game in hand with six left to play.

And The Robins fans have now only seen their charges lose once in the past six months as they enter the last six games of the season.

The Shepherd Neame Stadium hasn't been kind to Carshalton since the club dropped down to the Bostik South three years ago; a broken leg suffered by former player Jerome Walker and a 5-0 drubbing count for two of more recent experiences.

Ryan Healy
Picture: Ian Gerrard

And Robins fans would've been disheartened to see Renord Tenyue put the Kent side one-up on 13 minutes.

But resilience is a word wafting around Colston Avenue these days and, before the break, a Raheem Sterling-Parker penalty and a goal by Tommy Bradford turned things around and it remained 2-1 after a closely-fought second-half.

"We spoke about aiming for promotion back in pre-season and the players and coaching staff have shown great dedication every week in chasing that goal," said player/manger Peter Adeniyi.

"The togetherness of this bunch is superb and I can also only applaud our fans who support us week in, week out.

"They've been tremendous as we've gone on this journey."

And the importance of a committed squad was never more apparent than on Monday afternoon as, for 93 minutes, Carshalton knocked on the South Park door which stood steadfastly locked.

But midfielder Healy, making only his ninth league start of the season, and whom played right back due to three regular defenders being out injured, acrobatically volleyed a Kalvin Morath-Gibbs knockdown in from seven yards.

Then, even deeper into stoppage time, goalkeeper Billy Bishop, whom had nothing to do all game, sprang to life and blocked away South Park's only shot of the game on target.

Next up for Carshalton Athletic is a trip to Walton Casuals, who themselves are fighting for a play-off position, on Saturday, April 7 (kick-off 3pm).

Salts slip to defeat at home to Colliers Wood

Epsom and Ewell FC's Easter weekend started with Media Officer, Richard Lambert, being interviewed on BBC Surrey's Drivetime Newshour on Maundy Thursday, ***writes George Holland***.

Richard spoke about the Club's Centenary, the groundshare at Chipstead and upcoming fixtures. The full seven minute interview can be heard on the @BBCSurrey and @BBCSurreySport Twitter feeds.

However, it was a bad Friday for Epsom when they hosted fellow basement boys Colliers Wood. In a fairly even first half, both sides had chances to score. Epsom's Louis O'Brien missed a sitter, and Scott Murphy blazed a shot over the crossbar.

Wood dominated the second half, and scored the only goal on 55 minutes when Reanu Grossett cut inside on the right and shot low past Conor Young in Epsom's goal. Conor made a few good saves to keep the score down to 0-1 to Wood. The defeat keeps Epsom six points behind Farnham and entrenched at the bottom of the league table. While three teams could still go down to CCL 1, the teams above Epsom also remain in danger of the drop.

Epsom were due to host Banstead Athletic tonight (Thursday) and they visit Guildford City this Saturday.

Sutton United's Louis John, seen here in action against Bromley, scored in last Friday's abandoned match at Maidenhead.
Picture: Paul Loughlin

United's woe

By Nick Kituno
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Sutton United boss Paul Doswell slammed the referee for his decision to send off captain Jamie Collins during the U's 3-0 defeat to Bromley on Monday.

The skipper was given his marching orders by Neil Hair shortly after the hour for what appeared to be a deliberate stamp on defender Luke Woolfenden.

It was after discussions with fourth official Jack Packman and nearside linesman Marcus Carmichael that the decision was made.

Doswell told Sutton Guardian: "I mean, the sending off of Jamie Collins is probably one of the worst decisions that any of one of us are going to see, we've all reseen it on the TV and the fourth official has seen something that no one else in the ground has seen.

"It's changed the approach for us because with 10 men, it was hard enough with 11 men against Bromley, but with 10 men [there was] no chance.

"The referee didn't see anything, the linesman didn't see anything, he was totally guided by his fourth official.

"He said Jamie maliciously stamped on his [Woolfenden] thigh. Again, we've all seen the TV, BT [Sport] have highlighted it as part of their package today and it's a very poor decision.

"But, let's just say this, I don't think it would have made a huge difference.

"I think Bromley were deserved winners and I don't think that would have been enough for us to really get back in the game today."

Promotion-chasing United conceded inside 10 minutes when striker Brandon Hanlan poked the ball home before George Porter was brought down inside the box by shot-stopper Jamie Butler on half-time.

Adam Mekki converted from 12 yards out to double Bromley's advantage before substitute Josh Rees added the third with 10 minutes remaining.

Now, with six games left, Doswell's side is aiming to finish either second or third and reach League Two for the first time in the club's 120-year history, but also have the dilemma of ensuring their pitch at the Knights Community Stadium meets the required standards.

He added: "It's the biggest quandary for this football club, but ultimately we have a plan in place.

"The contractors would be in here the day after we knew we were promoted and it will be replaced with a hybrid grass pitch, which will be excellent in quality.

"But as I said to everyone, it's not something we want to do but something we might have to do."

It was an Easter to forget for Sutton who saw Friday's 3-2 half-time lead at Maidenhead wiped out by the weather.

Craig Eastmond, Simon Walton and Louis John all found the target for the U's but the referee abandoned the game at the break with the pitch waterlogged.

United face a tough task this weekend when they visit high-flying Fylde.

The Lancashire side have created quite a stir in their first season at National League level having beaten Tranmere Rovers 4-1, league leaders Macclesfield Town 6-0 and Aldershot 7-1.

The U's then travel to Halifax Town on Tuesday night (April 10)

Rovers pay the penalty

A late Kery Kedze goal helped visitors Redhill pick up a point in a feisty encounter at Sutton Common Rovers on Saturday, ***writes Gary Brigden***.

Neat link up on the left between Tom Neale, Danny Fernandez and Anson Cousins on 14 minutes ended with Neale firing a volley goalwards and bringing a good save out of Liam Sallis low down to his right.

Kedze did well on 20 minutes to beat Cousins, whipped over a tremendous cross to Tony Halsey but he could only direct his header against the post.

Rovers almost opened the scoring on 22 minutes when a decent Fernandez free kick was tipped wide of the right hand post by a flying Sallis.

Back at the other end, and it should have been 1-0 to the visitors, Rovers parted to allow Tevon Webster through on goal, he poked the ball beyond Michael Eacott, but recalled left back Cousins got back to hook the ball off the line.

Daryl Cooper-Smith saw a shot well blocked by Harry Stow on 26 minutes and a minute later Asa Rixon-Nicholls became the first man to trouble the referees notebook as he saw yellow for a foul on Qudos Bolagi.

Bolagi fired an effort well wide of the right hand post and Fernandez became the second Rovers man into the book for a foul on Kedze.

Rixon-Nicholls saw his header deflected behind for a corner on 42 minutes. Three minutes later and Rovers were gifted a chance to take the lead. Craig Hastings floated a ball into the area, Sallis fumbled a simple take, and in his efforts to regain the ball bought down Neale. Cooper-Smith fired home from the spot to give Rovers a somewhat fortuitous half time lead.

The second half started in a similar fashion as the first with very little going on in the opening stages, but again it was the visitors who went closest. Ten minutes in and Kedze did well on the left, found Halsey with his cross, and the knock down found Webster who looked odds on to level the scores, but somehow fired over.

Rovers skipper Aaron Bogle found his way into the book following an altercation with Kedze.

The visitors replaced Halsey and Webster with Gary Abiogusun and Mo Diakite on 65 minutes, and Rovers withdrew Fernandez and gave a debut to 17 year old winger Adaini Carrera.

On 73 minutes, and a minute later Bogle picked up a second yellow for a foul on Kedze and was ordered off.

Michael Campbell replaced Auletta on 82 minutes, and the visitors were reduced to ten on 84 minutes when keeper Sallis clattered Cooper-Smith and picked up a second yellow.

With time running out, Hastings fouled Kedze in the area, and the Redhill man pulled the scores level from the spot.

Into injury time, and a scything challenge by Hastings saw him pick up a second yellow, and receive his marching orders.

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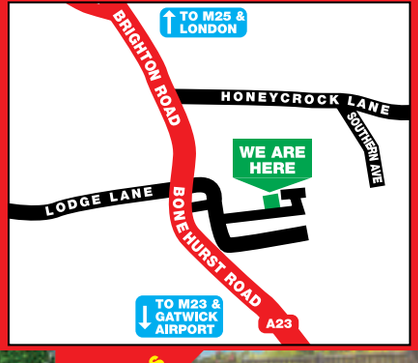

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